

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A pressure relief arrangement for a housing including two housing portions comprising:

a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions;

fastening~~first~~ means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions; and

rupture disc member~~second~~ means operative with said fastening~~first~~ means and independent of said sealing member such that the fastening~~first~~ means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through said rupture disc member~~second~~ means for responding to overpressure within the housing, said rupture disc member~~second~~ means comprising at least one disc-shaped member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value, said disc-shaped member having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section to which the shear loading is applied.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fastening~~first~~ means and said disc-shaped members are dimensioned and assembled to focus applied forces in a predetermined manner to said disc-shaped members.

5. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fastening~~first~~ means includes bushing~~third~~ means for focusing applied forces to said rupture disc member~~second~~ means.

6. (currently amended) The pressure relief arrangement of claim 5 wherein said fastening~~first~~ means further comprises alignment disc~~fourth~~ means for aligning said fastening~~first~~, rupture disc member~~second~~ and bushing~~third~~ means.

7. (currently amended) A pressure relief arrangement for a housing comprising: first and second housing portions, a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions, fasteningfirst means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions and rupture disc membersecond means independent of said sealing member for responding to overpressure within the housing, said rupture disc membersecond means cooperating with said fasteningfirst means such that the fasteningfirst means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through said rupture disc membersecond means, said rupture disc membersecond means comprising at least one disc-shaped member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value, said disc-shaped member having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section to which the shear loading is applied.